

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Christopher K. Gagne on 1/13/2008.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims

4. Please cancel claims 3 and 19.
5. Please amend claims 1, 16 and 20 as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A machine-implemented method comprising:

loading in a machine a bus-to-network device driver during a machine boot, the bus-to-network device driver ~~capable of~~ distinguishing between received responses to machine bus commands and other network traffic, the other network traffic ~~to be~~ being passed through a virtual network driver provided to an operating system protocol stack of the machine, the machine bus

commands being ~~to be~~ passed through a storage protocol driver, the received responses to the machine bus commands being received by the machine via a network, both the other network traffic and the received responses ~~to be~~ being passed through the bus-to-network device driver, the bus-to-network device driver to select one of the virtual network driver and the storage protocol driver to which to pass the received responses and the other network traffic based upon respective hardware addresses associated with the storage protocol driver and the virtual network driver, wherein the bus-to-network device driver comprises an iSCSI driver and the loading occurs in response to an operating system load of SCSI drivers.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

a network device;

a bus-to-network device driver that operates the network device and supports booting to a remote boot device, the bus-to-network device driver ~~capable of~~ distinguishing between received responses to machine bus commands and general purpose network traffic; and

a virtual network driver that communicates with the network device through the device driver, presents itself to an operating system protocol stack as a network device driver that operates the network device, and supports the general purpose network traffic;

the general network traffic ~~to-be~~ being passed through the virtual network driver, the machine bus commands being ~~to-be~~ passed through a storage protocol driver, the received responses to the machine bus commands being received via a network, both the general purpose network traffic and the received responses being ~~to-be~~ passed through the bus-to-network device driver, the bus-to-network device driver to select one of the virtual network driver and the storage protocol driver to which to pass the received responses and the general purpose network traffic based upon respective hardware addresses associated with the storage protocol driver and the virtual network driver, wherein the bus-to-network driver comprises an iSCSI driver that presents itself as a SCSI driver to the operating system.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim [19]
18, wherein the hardware driver discriminates between iSCSI

traffic and the general purpose network traffic based on the hardware addresses.

Drawings

6. The drawings filed on 4/8/04 are acknowledged.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 12-18, 20-23 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Haresh Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3973. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn, can be reached at (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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/Haresh N. Patel/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454

1/13/08